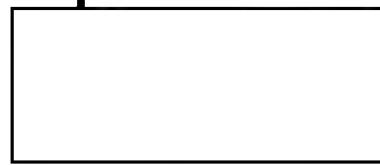


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UNITED KINGDOM: DEFENSE MINISTER CARRINGTON WILL BRING UP LONDON'S RESERVATIONS ON MBFR DURING HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON. HE ALSO EXPECTS TO DISCUSS CSCE AND TO PROBE THE US BURDEN-SHARING INITIATIVE

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LONDON HAS NEVER BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MBFR, FEARING IT COULD RESULT IN GRAVE SECURITY PROBLEMS FOR EUROPE AND "NEUTRALIZATION" OF CENTRAL EUROPE. THE BRITISH ARE nevertheless, WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE US AND TO PLAY A FULL AND USEFUL ROLE IN THE TALKS THIS FALL.

CARRINGTON IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER WHAT THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING STRATEGY SHOULD BE IN THE MBFR TALKS. THE BRITISH EXPECT MOSCOW TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS DURING THE TALKS, ADOPTING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE. IN CARRINGTON'S OPINION, THE WEST SHOULD TRY TO DRAW MOSCOW OUT BEFORE MAKING A FIRM PROPOSAL. HE WILL PROBABLY WARN THAT A FIRM WESTERN STAND TOO EARLY WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS ADVANCE WARNING OF THE ALLIED POSITIONS AND COULD LIMIT THE WEST'S FLEXIBILITY. THE NEW US POSITION PAPER, WHICH HAS RECEIVED A FAVORABLE FIRST REACTION FROM MOST OF THE ALLIES, MAY HELP ALLAY SOME OF CARRINGTON'S WORRIES.

THE BRITISH ARE DETERMINED TO SEEK CONCRETE RESULTS FROM THE SECOND STAGE OF THE CSCE TALKS; THEY WANT NO "PIOUS RUBBISH." THEY ARE DETERMINED TO GET AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM THE BLOC AND ARE PREPARED FOR HARD BARGAINING WITH THE SOVIETS. AT THE SAME TIME, LONDON HOPES TO PREVENT CSCE FROM CREATING AN ATTITUDE OF EUPHORIA THAT WOULD INTERFERE WITH WEST EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION.

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE US BURDEN-SHARING INITIATIVE AND COGNIZANT OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS FACING THE US GOVERNMENT, THE BRITISH SEE NO POSSIBILITY OF GETTING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM PARLIAMENT TO RELIEVE THE US BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS BURDEN RESULTING FROM STATIONING US TROOPS IN EUROPE. IN FACT, THE BRITISH ARE TRYING TO HOLD DOWN THEIR OWN DEFENSE SPENDING AND ARE BUDGETING ONLY MODEST INCREASES. LONDON IS QUICK TO REMIND THE US THAT IT AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALS HAVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF WASHINGTON.

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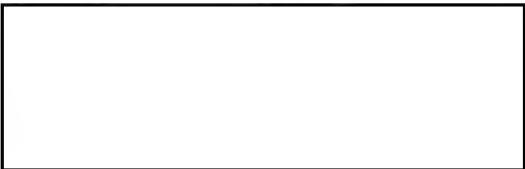
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